

What is the Kingdom of God?

The Kingdom as Presented in Scripture

Summary

- Introduction and terminology
- Facets of a kingdom
- God's plan for earthly dominion
- Kingdom in Matthew
- Kingdom in the NT
- Kingdom in Summary

Matthew Structure

Chapters 1-4 Prologue	The king Comes	Genealogy of the king Birth of the king Worship of the king The escape of the king from death Preparation for the king's coming Identification and testing of the king King begins ministry to the people
Chapters 5-7 With his disciples (5:1)	The Sermon on the Mount The kingdom is coming	The blessed in the kingdom Living in expectation of the kingdom When Jesus was finished (7:28)
Chapters 8-10	The announcement of the kingdom	Evidential signs When Jesus was finished (11:1)
Chapters 11-12	The king/kingdom rejected	Sign of Jonah (12:38-42)
Chapter 13 With the multitude (13:2) and With his disciples (13:36)	The parables of the kingdom The kingdom in abeyance	Understanding the kingdom When Jesus was finished (13:53)
Chapters 14-18	The postponement of the kingdom	Sign of Jonah (16:1) When Jesus was finished (19:1)
Chapters 19-23	The king/kingdom rejected	Evidential signs
Chapters 24-25 With his disciples (24:3)	The Olivet Discourse The kingdom to come in future	The blessed in the kingdom Living in expectation of the kingdom When Jesus was finished (26:1)
Chapters 26-28 Epilogue	The king Leaves	King ends ministry to the people The trial and testing of the king The death of the king The king overcomes death The worship of the king

Context of Matthew

- Written with a purpose – the king/kingdom
 - Mt. 1:1; 1:6; 28:18
- Written to Jewish audience – 50-70 AD
- Still time of the Gentiles
- Earthly expectations
 - Expecting a Messiah to come in judgment
 - Expecting an economic messiah

OT Connection - Daniel

- **Dan 2:44** And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven **set up a kingdom**, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.
- **Dan 4:26** And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that **the heavens do rule**.
- **Dan 7:13-14** I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like the **Son of man came with the clouds of heaven**, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And **there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him**: his dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed.
- **Dan 7:18** But the saints of the most High **shall take the kingdom**, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.

Terminology

- Important to Matthew
 - Heaven (in some form) used 82 times
 - 71 times for the other gospels combined
 - Heavenly Father (6); also Lk. 11:13
 - Father which is/art in heaven (14); 2 times in other gospels combined (Mk. 11:26; Lk. 11:2)
 - Kingdom(s) used in 55 verses of 154 in NT
 - 19 Mk, 44 Lk, 3 Jn, 33 remainder
 - Heaven and earth – 10 verses of 52 in NT
 - 2 Mk, 5 Lk, 1 Jn, Revelation with most (17)
 - King(s) – 23 times in the book

Terminology

- Metonymy (an attribute for the thing)
 - De. 17:18 "And when he sits on **the throne of his kingdom**, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests.
 - Je. 27:8 But if any nation or kingdom will not serve this Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and put its neck under the **yoke of the king** of Babylon, I will punish that nation with the sword, with famine, and with pestilence, declares the LORD, until I have consumed it by his hand.
- Personification
 - Ek. 17:14 that the **kingdom might be humble and not lift itself up**, and keep his covenant that it might stand.

Terminology

- Differentiating kingdoms
 - Kingdom has always existed vs. having a beginning – Ps. 10:16; Da. 2:44
 - Kingdom has a universal or collective scope vs. a earthly/local scope – Ps. 103:19; Is. 24:23
 - Kingdom is earthly vs. heavenly – Da. 2:44; 2 Ti. 4:18
 - Kingdom has God as direct king vs. God as indirect king – Ps. 59:13; Ps. 2:4-6
 - Kingdom as unconditional vs. conditional – Da. 4:34-35; Ps. 89:27-37; 1 Ki. 11:31, 38
 - Kingdom as future vs. as present – Ze. 14:9; Ps. 29:10
 - Kingdom of God vs. Kingdom of the heavens

Facets of a Kingdom

- The ruler

- Mt. 27:11

- Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the **King of the Jews?**" Jesus said, "You have said so."

- The ruled

- Ex. 19:5-6

- Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and **you shall be to me a kingdom** of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

Facets of a Kingdom

- The rule or reign

- Da. 4:25

- that you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, till you know that **the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.**

- The realm

- Mt. 4:8

- Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him **all the kingdoms of the world** and their glory.

Stages of the Ruler

- Joseph, Moses, David, Jesus
- First presentation of king/ruler
 - Ge. 37:1-2; Ex. 2:11-12; 2 Sa. 5:1-2; Mt. 21:5
- Rejection of king/ruler
 - Ge 37:23-24, 28; Ex. 2:13-14; 2 Sa 15:13-14; Mt. 23:37
- Second presentation and receiving of king/ruler again
 - Ge. 45:1-15; Ex. 4:28-31; 2 Sa. 19:8-10; Mt. 23:39

Earthly Dominion

- God
 - Ps. 145:13; Da. 4:3
- First Adam
 - Ge. 1:26, 28; Ps. 8:6
- Last Adam
 - Ps. 110:2; Da. 7:14; He. 2:7-9
- God
 - Re. 22:1-5; 1 Co. 15:28

Dominion of Man

- Adam to the fall – dominion of man
 - God speaking to man directly
 - Dominion lost; conscience gained (Ge. 3:5, 22)
- Fall to the flood – man left to himself
 - God speaking through conscience (Ge. 4:3-5)
 - Moral corruption – Ge. 6:3, 11
- Flood to Babel – man under government
 - God speaking through government (Ge. 9:6)
 - Governmental corruption (Ge. 11:4) – languages (Ge. 11:7)

Dominion of Man

- Abraham to exodus – man in nations
 - God speaking to one man/family – Abraham (Ge. 12:1-4; 21:12)
 - Unconditional promise of a people/nation – 15:5, 18; 28:14
 - Family disintegration – into bondage (Ge. 37:4, 18-28; 42:16, 19-22, 24; 42:36; 43:13; 46:5-7; Ex. 1:13)

Dominion of Man

- The chosen nation – Israel
 - Coming of the ruler of the people – Moses
 - Signs and wonders – Ac. 7:34-36
 - Delivered from bondage
 - God's firstborn son – Ex. 4:22-23
 - Conditional covenant – Ex. 3:12; 19:2-3, 6; Dt. 5:28-29; 6:17-18
 - Ratified by blood and implemented – Ex. 24:1-8
 - The law
 - Spiritual relationship with Jehovah – Ex. 29:43-46; 33:16; Dt. 13:1-18; 15:5-6

Dominion of Man

- Israel as a nation to captivity
 - God speaking to and through chosen nation
 - In their inheritance – Js. 1:6; 11:23
 - God ruled the nation through others
 - Jg. 8:23; 1 Sa. 12:12
 - Rulers in Israel
 - Moses (Ex. 3:4-10), Joshua (Js. 1:5), Judges (Jg. 2:16, 18)
 - Saul, David, Solomon, etc. (Ge. 17:6; 35:11; 49:10; Dt. 17:14-20; 1 Sa. 8:4-5; 10:1; 12:6-11; 15:17, 26; 16:1-13; 1 Ch.28:5)

Dominion of Man

- God speaks through prophets; much written
 - Ne. 9:30; Ho. 3:4; Is. 1:23; 28:7; Ek. 34:2; Je. 6:16
- Nation corrupted, divided
 - Jg. 2:19-20; 21:15; 1 Ki. 10:26, 28; 11:3-4, 11-13, 29-43; 12:22-25; 14:30; Is. 1:3-6; Am. 2:4-16
- At the end
 - A dispersed people with no ruler – Ho. 3:4; Dt. 28:15-68; 2 Ki. 15:29; 17:6; Am. 9:9
 - God departs the temple – Ne. 9:19; Ek. 8-11 (8:4, 6; 9:3; 10:4; 11:23)
 - Times of the Gentiles begin – Da. 2:37-45
 - Temple and city destroyed – 2 Ki. 25:1-21

Dominion of Man

- Captivity to the Messiah (Last Adam)
 - God's promises remain
 - Je. 33:17, 20-21; Ze. 14:7, 9
 - God provides for return of people
 - Temple rebuilt but no glory – Ez 1:1-8; 5:13-14; 6:3, 14; Is. 44:28-45:13
 - Chosen nation must wait for Messiah to come to reestablish kingdom and end the times of the Gentiles

Dominion of Man

- Messiah comes – kingdom is at hand
- Messiah is rejected by the nation
 - Kingdom does not get reestablished
 - Messiah suffers, dies, is buried, and is resurrected
 - Times of the Gentiles continue
 - Messiah will come again in future
- The church – the body of Christ
 - Created and raptured to heaven

Dominion of Man

- The chosen nation – to be reestablished
 - Coming of the ruler of the people – Jesus
 - Glory returns – Ek. 43:1-7; Is. 24:23; 33:17; Mi. 4:7
 - Signs and wonders
 - Delivered from bondage – Je. 31:10, 28; Is. 11:12; Ek. 37:1-11
 - God's firstborn son – Ex. 4:22-23
 - Dominion and temple rebuilt – Mi. 4:8; Am. 9:11; Je. 3:17
 - New covenant –
 - Ratified by blood and to be implemented –
 - The law in their hearts – Je. 31:33
 - Spiritual relationship with Jehovah

Dominion of Man

- Jesus the Messiah rules over the whole earth - Ps. 72:8
 - All enemies to be put under his feet – 1 Co. 15:25
 - The Last Adam to have dominion – He. 2:6-8
 - Israel/Jerusalem to be the capital of the earthly kingdom – Ps. 110:2
- God's plan fulfilled that man will have dominion – Ps. 8:4-6
- Christ gives up the kingdom so that God is all in all – 1 Co. 15:28
- New heavens and new earth – Is. 65:17; Re. 21:1

Kingdom in Matthew

- **Mat_3:2** And saying, Repent ye: for **the kingdom of heaven is at hand**.
- **Mat_4:8** Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all **the kingdoms of the world**, and the glory of them;
- **Mat_4:17** From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for **the kingdom of heaven is at hand**.
- **Mat_4:23** And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching **the gospel of the kingdom**, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.
- **Mat_5:3** Blessed are the poor in spirit: **for theirs is the kingdom of heaven**.
- **Mat_5:10** Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: **for theirs is the kingdom of heaven**.

Kingdom in Matthew

- Mat_5:19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the **least in the kingdom of heaven**: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called **great in the kingdom of heaven**.
- Mat_5:20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case **enter into the kingdom of heaven**.
- Mat_6:10 **Thy kingdom come**. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
- Mat_6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: **For thine is the kingdom**, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.
- Mat_6:33 But **seek ye first the kingdom of God**, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Kingdom in Matthew

- Mat_7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
- Mat_8:11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.
- Mat_8:12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- Mat_9:35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.
- Mat_10:7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.
- Mat_11:11 Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Kingdom in Matthew

- Mat_11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now **the kingdom of heaven** **suffereth violence**, and the violent take it by force.
- Mat_12:25 And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every **kingdom** **divided against itself** is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:
- Mat_12:26 And if **Satan** cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then **his kingdom** stand?
- Mat_12:28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then **the kingdom of God** **is come unto you**.
- Mat_13:11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know **the mysteries of** **the kingdom of heaven**, but to them it is not given.
- Mat_13:19 When any one heareth **the word of** **the kingdom**, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

Kingdom in Matthew

- Mat_13:24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, **The kingdom of heaven is likened** unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:
- Mat_13:31 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, **The kingdom of heaven is like** to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:
- Mat_13:33 Another parable spake he unto them; **The kingdom of heaven is like** unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.
- Mat_13:38 The field is the world; the good seed are **the children of the kingdom**; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;
- Mat_13:41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall **gather out of his kingdom** all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;
- Mat_13:43 Then shall the **righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father**. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Kingdom in Matthew

- Mat_13:44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.
- Mat_13:45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:
- Mat_13:47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:
- Mat_13:52 Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.
- Mat_16:19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Kingdom in Matthew

- Mat_16:28 Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see **the Son of man coming in his kingdom.**
- Mat_18:1 At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is **the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?**
- Mat_18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, **ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.**
- Mat_18:4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, **the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.**
- Mat_18:23 Therefore is **the kingdom of heaven likened unto** a certain king, which would take account of his servants.
- Mat_19:12 For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for **the kingdom of heaven's sake.** He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.

Kingdom in Matthew

- Mat_19:14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is **the kingdom of heaven**.
- Mat_19:23 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That **a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven**.
- Mat_19:24 And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for **a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God**.
- Mat_20:1 For **the kingdom of heaven is like** unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard.
- Mat_20:21 And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, **in thy kingdom**.
- Mat_21:31 Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the **publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God** before you.

Kingdom in Matthew

- Mat_21:43 Therefore say I unto you, **The kingdom of God shall be taken from you**, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.
- Mat_22:2 **The kingdom of heaven is like** unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,
- Mat_23:13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for **ye shut up the kingdom of heaven** against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, **neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.**
- Mat_24:7 For nation shall rise against nation, and **kingdom against kingdom**: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.
- Mat_24:14 And this **gospel of the kingdom** shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.
- Mat_25:1 Then shall **the kingdom of heaven** be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

Kingdom in Matthew

- Mat_25:14 For **the kingdom of heaven** is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.
- Mat_25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, **inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:**
- Mat_26:29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in **my Father's kingdom.**

Kingdoms in Scripture

- Kingdom in Matthew
 - First – there is a kingdom or sphere of rule that has always existed and never ends of which God rules, with no opposition, in and from heaven. The collective/celestial/universal kingdom. Universal kingdom with universal sphere.
 - Second – God established an earthly dominion with man and later the nation of Israel in the past. The chosen/messianic/earthly kingdom connected to the universal kingdom.

Kingdoms in Scripture

- Third – there is the continuation of Israel's earthly kingdom that will be established in the future of which Christ will rule with a rod of iron on earth. The messianic kingdom's earthly sphere where man will have dominion.
- Fourth – there is a heavenly sphere in relation to God's earthly kingdom. The messianic kingdom's heavenly sphere.
- Fifth – the earthly kingdom to be delivered up to God the Father that he might be all in all.

Kingdom in the Gospels

- Proclamation of the kingdom to the Jews – 20
 - The gospel of the kingdom; kingdom is nigh
- The ruled or subjects of the kingdom – 40
 - Enter into the kingdom; in the kingdom
- The ruler rejected – 10
 - Kingdom of God taken
- Waiting for the rejected ruler to come – 28
 - Left to receive a kingdom; kingdom is like
- The future kingdom – 23
 - The kingdom come; in the kingdom
- Kingdoms of men – 4

Kingdom in the NT

- Acts (8)
 - Preaching the kingdom (6)
 - Ac. 1:6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?
 - Ac. 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Kingdom in the NT

- Rom_14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.
- 1Co_4:20 For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.
- 1Co_6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,
- 1Co_6:10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.
- 1Co_15:24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.
- 1Co_15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

Kingdom in the NT

- Gal_5:21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.
- Eph_5:5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.
- Col_1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:
- Col_4:11 And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only are my fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me.
- 1Th_2:12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.
- 2Th_1:5 Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

Kingdom in the NT

- 2Ti_4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead **at his appearing and his kingdom;**
- 2Ti_4:18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will **preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom:** to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.
- Heb_1:8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is **the sceptre of thy kingdom.**
- Heb_12:28 Wherefore **we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved,** let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:
 - Jas_2:5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and **heirs of the kingdom** which he hath promised to them that love him?
 - 2Pe_1:11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly **into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.**

Kingdom in the NT

- Rev_1:9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.
- Rev_12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.
- Rev_16:10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,
- Rev_17:12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.
- Rev_17:17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

Universal Kingdom

- The ruler – the kingdom exists and is everlasting – Ps. 29:10; 93:1; 145:13; Da. 4:3, 34; Je. 10:10; La. 5:19; 2 Pe. 1:11
- The realm – 1 Ch. 16:31; 29:11-12; Ps. 47:2,7-8; 103:19; 139:7-10; Da. 2:21; 4:17, 25, 32
- The rule – Ps. 135:6-9; 148:8; Is. 10:5-15; 44:28-45:5; Je. 25:9; Da. 6:27
- The ruled – 2 Ch. 12:6; Ps. 74:12; 75:4-7; 103:19-20; Is. 6:5; Ro. 13:1; 2 Pe. 2:4-9

Universal Kingdom

- The ruler – God through the Son
 - In the creation – Ro. 1:20; Co. 1:17
 - He is an expression of the Father – Is. 9:6; He. 1:2-3
 - He is king of the ages – 1 Ti. 1:17
 - Different thrones – Re. 3:21 – he sits on God's throne now (at the right hand of the father; He. 8:1; 12:2) but will also sit on the throne of David as Messiah in the future (1 Ki. 9:5; Is. 9:7; Je. 33:17; Lk. 1:32)

Earthly Kingdoms

- Je. 27:8 And it shall come to pass, that the **nation and kingdom** which will not serve the same Nebuchadnezzar the **king of Babylon**, and that will not put their neck under the yoke of the **king of Babylon**, that nation will I punish, saith the LORD, with the sword, and with the famine, and with the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand.

Kingdoms in Two Spheres

- Mt. 12:26 – Satan has a kingdom; he is prince of this world (Jn. 12:31; 14:30). His kingdom has two spheres (Ep. 2:2).
- Jn. 18:36 – Christ has a kingdom; he is the future prince of the earth (Lk. 1:33). His kingdom has two spheres (Mt. 6:10).

Messianic Kingdom

- Future continuation of Kingdom of Israel
- The ruler – Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of God
 - Mt. 1:1, 20; 9:27; 15:22; 21:9
 - Mt. 4:6; 8:29; 14:33; 26:63-64; 27:54
 - Is. 11:1-6; 16:5; Ze. 6:13; Mt. 19:28; 25:31
- The realm - on earth
 - Hallowed be thy name – Mt. 6:9
 - Thy kingdom come – Mt. 6:10
 - Thy will be done – Mt. 6:10

Messianic Kingdom

- The rule
 - Put down all rebellion – 1 Co. 15:24
 - Given up to God to be part of the universal or collective kingdom
 - Is. 11:1-6; 42:1-7
- The ruled
 - Israel and the nations
 - Da. 7:14

NT Definition

The NT holds to a consistent meaning of “kingdom of God” that always refers to the promised, OT, future messianic kingdom that fulfills Israel’s Old Testament covenants, promises, and prophecies. The kingdom was not physically established when Christ Jesus came to earth the first time and it is not physically here on earth even during this current age in which the church is being called out. The messianic kingdom on earth is future, awaiting fulfillment in the millennium and beyond. There has always been a heavenly sphere (unseen aspect) of the kingdom currently connected with Christ (Mt. 25:34) which will come with Christ when he comes to establish the earthly kingdom.

The Kingdoms

God's Universal Kingdom – He Reigns Overall from Heaven Above		
	Kingdom in Its Two Spheres	
	Earthly/Natural	Heavenly/Spiritual
Creation	Dominion to Adam	
Fall	Dominion to Satan	
Government	Nations established	
A chosen kingdom - Israel	God ruling in Satan's domain	
Israel Dispersed/Jerusalem Destroyed	Times of the Gentiles	
Forerunner	The future king introduced	God will rule in Christ the king
A chosen king	The king arrives - seen	Men may enter - unseen
	The king rejected - seen	Men may still enter - unseen
Redemption	Title to Christ	
The king leaves	I will build my assembly/church	Christ head of the body - unseen
The church leaves	Earthly bodies transformed	Flesh and blood cannot inherit
A chosen king - kingdom	The king arrives again - seen	
The king received and enthroned	The earthly saints in kingdom	The heavenly saints in kingdom
	Dominion to Last Adam	
	The kingdom delivered up to God	

Christ's Kingdom

- Christ's kingdom currently exists in the spiritual/heavenly sphere.
 - Can not be observed physically
 - Except, perhaps through the believers
 - Believers enter and are now in it
 - It was within reach to the Jews of Jesus time
 - Believers will be physically present in it in the future with a body suited for that sphere – For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality (1 Co. 15:44, 53).

Summary

- The kingdom of God references the kingdom whose source is God and heaven and is headed up in Christ.
- Observing the Lord's two comings, and the aspects and differences in kingdoms is important in understanding the whole of God's kingdom plan.
- God is faithful to keep his word – there is a future for Israel.
- Differentiating the two spheres of Christ's kingdom is essential to understanding our place and that of the church as a whole.
- We are to live in light of the reality of God's rule overall and our place there in Christ.